II. *Notes on a new genus of* Lycænidæ. By Lionel de Niceville, F.L.S., C.M.Z.S., &c.

[Read December 4th, 1889.]

I have asked my friend Mr. Distant to exhibit at a meeting of the Entomological Society a twig of walnut, on which will be found numerous egg-masses laid by a lycænid butterfly. I have proposed a new generic name for this species, which was described as long ago as 1865, by the late Mr. Hewitson, as *Dipsas odata*. I have called it *Chætoprocta*, with reference to the immense tuft of long hairs which clothe the end of the abdomen of the female butterfly. I think it is a good genus, as in neuration it differs considerably from *Zephyrus*, Dalman, the genus to which it is most closely allied. With the walnut-branch I have sent a pair of specimens of the imago of this little butterfly, which strongly reminds one of *Zephyrus* (*Thecla* auctorum) *quercus*, Linnæus, the common "Purple Hairstreak." Like it, *C. odata* is purple alone, that colour being rather more restricted to the base of the wings in the female than in the male. The under surface is silvery greenish-grey, banded and spotted with a darker colour. The butterfly is found, as far as I know, only in the north-western hilly portions of the Indian Empire, at elevations of from 5000 to 10,000 feet above the sea. It is single-brooded, flying from May to July, and is only found where walnut-trees grow, on which its larva feeds. In the day time it flies but little; when disturbed on beating a walnut or neighbouring tree, it "flops" off of one leaf on to another, resting with closed wings on the upper surface only. But in the late afternoon it rouses itself, flies backwards and forwards and round and round the walnut trees with great rapidity, and it is then that couples may frequently be taken together. If the end of the abdomen of the female be examined, it will be found to be furnished with a large closely-packed mass of long hair-like scales

of a pale ochreous satiny colour. The female lays its eggs in irregular rows, varying from two to four eggs in each row, the egg-mass when finished presenting a neat thatched appearance, and of an elongated form. It appears that the sticky egg, in passing from the abdomen of the mother, becomes thickly coated with the hairs at the end of her body, the basal portion of the hairs, which are dark, being attached to the egg, while the anterior portion of the hairs, which are greyish, remain free. The larva is of the usual lycænid form, pale green, and apparently lacks the dorsal gland on the eleventh segment and the two subdorsal tentacula on the twelfth segment commonly found in the larvæ of this family, and is consequently unattended by ants.

I should be glad if some members of the Entomological Society would try to breed this butterfly in England. On the twigs sent are numerous patches of live eggs; also many patches of dead ones, which were probably laid last year, and may be known from the others by the hairs having all been destroyed, and each egg having a round hole from which the young larva had escaped. It will be seen that in many instances fresh eggs are laid in continuation of an old egg-mass. I should be very glad to know if there is any other butterfly which coats its eggs with hairs in the way done by *C. odata*. The Zoological Society of London might perhaps be asked to try to breed the butterfly. The larvæ, I may add, will only eat the very freshest and youngest leaves of the walnut-tree.